

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/656,513

Applicant(s)

ERIKSSON, SOREN

Examiner

Marie A. Weiskopf

Art Unit

3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/30/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

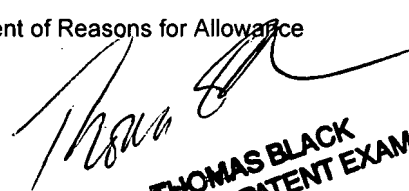
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


THOMAS BLACK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-20 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In regard to claims 1, 8 and 15 the prior art, individually or in combination, fails to disclose, teach or suggest a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level wherein the lower hierarchical level communicates to the upper hierarchical level by sending upward signals and wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level independent of the request for vehicle modification and wherein the lower hierarchical level is a suspension coordinator subsystem. The closest prior art, Dominike et al (US 5,991,669) discloses a hierarchical control system with an upper and lower hierarchical level, wherein the lower hierarchical sends upward signals including availabilities of the lower hierarchical level but not when the lower hierarchical level is a suspension coordinator subsystem. Claims 2, 9-14 and 16 further define the invention.

In regard to claims 3, 4, 15, 17 and 18, the prior art, individually or in combination, fails to disclose, teach or suggest wherein the upward signals include a confirmation of the mode of operation or a confirmation of enablement. The closest prior art, Dominike et al, only requests a components resource requirement and the coordinator asks a source of a resource its available potential, but does not disclose sending a confirmation of the mode of operation.

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In regard to claims 5, 6, and 19, the prior art, individually or in combination, fails to disclose, teach or suggest wherein the downward signals include vehicle state measurements of the vehicle. The closest prior art, Dominike et al, disclose having signal measurements available to both levels, however, does not specifically disclose the upper hierarchical level communicating to a lower hierarchical level by sending downward signals that include vehicle state measurements of the vehicle.

In regard to claims 7 and 20, the prior art, individually or in combination, fails to disclose, teach or suggest the upward signals including a request for a status of the lower hierarchical level. The closest prior art, Dominike et al, discloses having a coordinator either ask a component for its resource or has a coordinator ask a source of a resource as to its available potential but does not disclose specifically including a request for a status.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

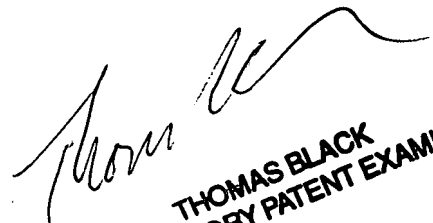
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marie A. Weiskopf whose telephone number is (571) 272-6288. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday between 7:00 AM and 5:30 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on (571) 272-6956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MW


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